

TOMATO PLANTS DEMAND WARMTH

Early Ripening Can Be Secured in Most Sections Only by Starting Indoors.

KEEP MODERATELY WATERED

Just Such Soil as Will Grow Crop of Corn or Potatoes is Recommended—Little Watering Manure Will Help.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

There is no better product of the garden than that so refreshing or palatable as well-ripened, fresh tomatoes, and they can be used in such a variety of ways. While fresh tomatoes have very little flavor or quality in the canning and good canned tomatoes add very materially to the food supply of the winter months.

Get Early Tomatoes.

Early ripening adds greatly to the value of the tomato crop and early tomatoes can be secured in most sections.



Hardy Tomato Plant Starts in Pot.

tions only by starting the plants indoors. Garden specialists of the United States Department of Agriculture say it is easy to grow plants indoors by sowing a small amount of seed in pots filled with moist soil about six or eight weeks before the usual time of the last frost in spring. The seeds should be covered with a thin layer of soil and kept moderately watered and the plants will generally come up in less than a week after planting the seeds. Keep the box near a window where it will get plenty of sunlight and water it daily to help it to make the plants grow straight.

When the plants begin to crowd each other, which will be in about four days after they come up, secure a large flat box, set the plants in it and cover them with a thin layer of soil to fit into the window, fill with rich, sifted soil and transplant each plant about two inches of space. With proper care to turn the bottom from the earth and to water the plants daily, the plants will be about four inches high, strong, and stocky when the weather has warmed enough to make it safe to set them out in the garden.

Worms Is Required.

Tomatoes naturally grow in a warm climate and require plenty of warmth from the start. The plants should be kept at about 65° F. for the first few days before they are to be set in the garden; then they should be gradually exposed to outdoor conditions to harden them. After they are set in the garden it may be necessary to cover them for a few nights with thin thicknesses of newspaper to protect them from the cold.

Tomatoes require a fairly rich soil, two to three feet just soil will do, as will a good crop of corn or potatoes. A little well-rotted manure can be worked into the spot where each plant is to be set and a tablespoonful of high-grade fertilizer sprinkled over the top of the soil and mixed with the soil will aid in giving the plant a good start. Planting distances will depend upon whether the plants are to be trained to a single stem or to be allowed to grow according to their natural habit of spreading over the ground. If the plants are to be trained they may be set in rows as close as 18 inches apart. If they are not to be trained the plants should be set three to four feet apart in each direction.

CARE OF LAWN IS IMPORTANT

Mowing, Rolling, Fertilizing and Watering Have Tendency to Exclude Noxious Plants.

The general care of the lawn is important in controlling all kinds of weeds, including crab grass. United States Department of Agriculture experts say. Mowing, rolling, fertilizing, and watering, in other words, everything that controls the growth of the best grasses, will tend to exclude weeds. Purchased manure, because of the seeds contained, is a frequent source of weed infestation in lawns. In sowing, the seed used should be as pure as can be obtained.

Sunlight in Hen House.

A good supply of sunlight in the chicken house may make the difference between a sickly, non-productive flock and a thrifty, profitable one.

Cut Posts in Spring.

Posts that are to be treated with a preservative should be cut in the spring and in this way they will be apt to break easily.

Encourage the Children.

Let the boys and girls join the den club, poultry or sewing club. Help them to get started and you will be proud of them for their good work later.

Importance of Houses.

The importance of providing proper protection for all the poultry increases with the growing value of poultry in any scheme of profitable farming.

Destroy Harmful Insects.

A garden plot with a gentle slope toward the south or southeast is most desirable for the production of early vegetables.

Destroy Grasshoppers, Cutworms and Grubs.

On rich soils you get more corn with the same labor.

TO WAGE HARD FIGHT AGAINST CORN BORER

Steps Taken to Prevent Spread of Insect Pest.

Specialists in Charge of Work Have Completed Plans for Carrying on Work—Infested Areas Borders on Lake Erie

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

Suppressive measures against the European corn borer are to be applied vigorously this spring in the western part of New York state to stop the further spread of this pest. Specialists of the United States Department of Agriculture in charge of the work have completed their plans which will be carried out in co-operation with state agencies.

The infested area where the experiment is to be tried borders on Lake Erie and partly on the state of Ontario. The borer has made its appearance last year. The fight is to be carried against the insect while in its winter quarters. The corn stubble and old straw must have been lying in the field since last year's harvest will be cleaned up and burned.

Meanwhile, as another method of attack, thousands of cocoons of a small, wasp-like insect which girdles the stalks of the corn borer are being sent to the United States by a representative of the department who is in southern France studying the habits of the pest. Thus far, some 6000 cocoons have been received at the Boston office of the department, where they are hatched out and the winged insects liberated in hundreds in infested fields. The European corn borer is a pest which has been known in this country but a few years, is looked upon as one of the most dangerous insect pests that have made their appearance in the United States.

So far, it is anticipated that it will eventually make its way to the corn belt. Infestations of the pest occur in sections of New York and Massachusetts, where federal quarantine to check the spread of the insects is in force.

GOSLINGS NEED GREEN FEED

Very Little Grain Is Required Until Goslings Are Fully Feathered—Water Is Essential.

Goslings do not need feed until they are 30 hours old or more, when they should be given stale bread soaked in water. When they are 30 hours old boiled eggs may be added. Feed three or four times daily for the first two or three weeks, with chopped grass or some other green feed added, this latter being a favorite with them over a week. They should be fed twice a day, and five per cent of fine grit or sharp sand may be added to the feed or kept in a hopper below the goslings.

After the first two weeks, if the goslings have a good grass range, they need only one light feed daily of a mash made up of two parts shorts and one part of cornmeal or ground oats or ground rye. After they are 30 hours old, if there is no grass, feed, change the mash to equal parts shorts, cornmeal and ground oats, with five per cent meal scrap. Where the pasture is good, many goslings are fed on grass, and when there are two or three weeks old, fatness with them only a grain feed, but with the goslings are usually fed until the goslings are well feathered.

CHUTE FOR HANDLING STOCK

Comparatively Easy Matter to Construct Device as Illustrated—Old Wheels Useful.

Farmers who ship many sheep, lambs and calves during the year know the value of a movable chute for loading

the animals.

The chute is made of wood and

is fastened to a wheel.

For instance, a wooden frame is made of two rails, one horizontal and one vertical, and a board is fastened across the top of the frame.

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